

HOUSE No. 603

Bill accompanying the petition of Thomas P. Riley for legislation to provide for placing upon official ballots the names of candidates for the United States Senate. Election Laws. January 16.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Eleven.

AN ACT

To provide for placing upon Official Ballots the Names of Candidates for the United States Senate.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 SECTION 1. For the purpose of affording members of
2 the legislature information as to the preference of the
3 party voters for candidates for United States senator, the
4 names of candidates for the position of United States
5 senator shall be printed upon the official ballots of the
6 respective political parties in the following manner: — At
7 every state election next preceding the election of a
8 United States senator by the legislature of Massachusetts
9 there shall be placed upon the official ballot by the secre-
10 tary of the commonwealth the names of all candidates
11 for the office of United States senator that have been
12 nominated in any of the methods now or which may
13 hereafter be provided by law for the nomination of state

14 officers for the commonwealth. The votes of each
15 candidate shall be counted and returned in the same
16 manner as the votes for other candidates for election to
17 state office. The secretary of state shall transmit du-
18 plicate copies of the returns of such vote to the legislature
19 assembled at its next ensuing session, one of which shall
20 be addressed to the senate and the other to the house of
21 representatives of the state of Massachusetts. One copy
22 of which shall be delivered by him to the president of the
23 senate and the other to the speaker of the house of repre-
24 sentatives immediately after the organization of such
25 bodies, which officers shall open and lay the same before
26 the separate houses when assembled to elect a United
27 States senator as now required by the act of congress.
28 It shall be the duty of each presiding officer to announce
29 the candidate for senator having the highest number of
30 votes of each political party, and thereupon the legis-
31 lature shall proceed upon the election of a United States
32 senator as required by the acts of congress and the com-
33 monwealth of Massachusetts.

1 SECTION 2. In the event that no nominations are
2 made as provided for in section one, any number of
3 legal voters of this state, not less than five hundred, who
4 are members of the same political party, may prepare
5 and sign with their names, residences and post office ad-
6 dresses, a petition addressed to the secretary of state,
7 setting forth that the signers are qualified voters of the
8 commonwealth of Massachusetts; that they are members
9 of a political party (naming the same); and that at the
10 last election for state officers preceding the execution of
11 the said petition they voted for a majority of the candi-
12 dates whose names were printed upon the ticket of the
13 said party at the ensuing election; that they endorse the

14 person named in their petition as a candidate for the
15 office of United States senator; and that they request the
16 secretary of state to cause the name of the person so en-
17 dorsed to be printed on the official ballots of such political
18 party throughout the state as the candidate for the office
19 of United States senator. Such petition shall further
20 state the residence and post office address of the candi-
21 date for United States senator so endorsed, that he is
22 legally qualified under the laws of this commonwealth to
23 be elected to that office by the legislature. Before any
24 petition shall be filed as hereinafter provided, at least
25 ten of the voters signing the same shall make oath before
26 a duly qualified officer of the state that the said petition
27 is made in good faith; that the affiants verily believe all
28 the signatures thereto to be genuine and those of duly
29 qualified voters and members of the political party men-
30 tioned in such petition; and a certificate that said oath
31 has been taken shall be endorsed upon or annexed to the
32 petition by the officer before whom the same is taken.
33 Accompanying said petition the person therein endorsed
34 as a candidate for United States senator shall file a cer-
35 tificate stating that he is qualified for said office, and that
36 he consents to the use of his name upon the ticket of the
37 party mentioned in the said petition as candidate for the
38 said office at the ensuing election. Said petition shall
39 be filed with the secretary of state at least twenty days
40 before any general election at which members of the
41 legislature are to be elected who will have the right to
42 vote in the legislature for a United States senator.

1 SECTION 3. This act shall take effect upon its accept-
2 ance by a majority of the voters voting upon said

1 SECTION 4. This act shall take effect upon its passage.

